

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTRE 01948 141812Z
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REF: STATE 284208

1. FOLLOWING IS REPLY TO QUESTIONS ASKED IN REFTEL.
IN GENERAL HOWEVER USREP WISHES MAKE CLEAR THAT US MISSION
TO ICAO HAS DIRECT ACCESS TO PRES/COUNCIL AND SYG
AND TO ANY AND ALL INFO WHICH IT NEEDS AND DESIRES RE ICAO'S
ADMINISTRATION AS WELL AS SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES.

2. A. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SECRETARIAT AND MEMBER
STATES IS UNUSUALLY CLOSE BECAUSE OF IN-RESIDENCE COUNCIL,
STANDING COMMITTEES AND COMMISSION WHICH ARE AT WORK AL-
MOST CONTINUOUSLY FOR TEN MONTHS OF THE YEAR. THERE
IS A CONSTANT STREAM OF FORMAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN
THE SECRETARIAT AND STATES (IN OUR CASE VIA USMISSION)
AND CONSTANT INFORMAL CONTACTS, VERBAL AND IN WRITING.
ATTITUDE OF SECRETARIAT IS COOPERATIVE AND OPEN IN
EVERYWAY. NEEDLESS TO SAY SOME MEMBERS OF SECRETARIAT
HAVE SOME PERSONAL PREJUDICES WHICH ARE SOMETIMES OBVIOUS
IN INTERVENTIONS OR IN SECRETARIAT-PREPARED WORKING PAPERS
BUT WE ARE GENERALLY AWARE OF THOSE CASES AND ARE
ABLE TO COPE AND COUNTER-ACT ANY MAJOR INFLUENCE THEY MIGHT
HAVE (WHEN IT IS CONTRARY TO US GOALS).

3. B. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SECRETARIAT AND USMISSION
IS NOT CARRIED ON THROUGH "LIAISON OFFICER" BUT DIRECTLY
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PAGE 02 MONTRE 01948 141812Z

BY USREP AND AIR NAV COMMISSION MEMBER FROM THE US ON A

DAILY BASIS. AGAIN THE SECRETARIAT IS FRIENDLY, COOPERATIVE,
AND IN MANY CASES IS PREJUDICED IN FAVOR OF US
AVIATION INTERESTS.

4. C. SECRETARIAT HAS NEVER REFUSED ANY US REQUEST
CONCERNING MANAGEMENT. IN FACT OUR FREQUENT
REQUESTS FOR INFO FOR CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS ARE
REPONDED TO EFFICIENTLY, PROMPTLY AND IN DETAIL.

5. D. SECRETARIAT'S VIEW OF ORGANIZATION'S RELATIONSHIP
TO MEMBER STATES IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT IN ICAO FOR
FOLLOWING REASONS: (1) ICAO'S 30-MEMBER IN-RESIDENT
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND ITS STANDING FINANCE CTE WHICH
READS BUDGET 3 TIMES TRIENNIALLY, AND ANNUALLY
APPROVES MODIFICATIONS IN FUNDING, PUTS THE SECRETARIAT
IN MUCH CLOSER RELATIONSHIP TO MEMBER STATES ON
MANAGEMENT QUESTIONS THAN IN OTHER AGENCIES. (2) SYG AND
PRES./COUNCIL ARE ELECTED BY COUNCIL, RATHER
THAN FULL ASSEMBLY WHICH MEETS ONLY TRIENNIALLY.
(3) ICAO WAS FIRST AGENCY AFTER UN TO REDUCE US ASSESSMENT
LEVEL TO 25 O/O CEILING WHICH IN A WAY REFLECTS IMPORTANCE
ATTACHED TO US ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL AVIATION. (4) 17
TECHNICAL ANNEXES TO THE CHICAGO CONVENTION REQUIRE
IMPLEMENTATION AND HAVE BUILT IN ACCOUNTABILITY, WHICH
AGAIN BRINGS THE ORGANIZATION (INCLUDING THE SECRETARIAT)
MUCH CLOSER TO MEMBER STATES AND THEIR AVIATION OPERATIONS.

6. E. WE DO NOT OFTEN HAVE NEED FOR SECRETARIAT INFO
"ON A REGULAR BASIS TO KEEP ABREAST...AND TO MONITOR...
MANAGEMENT" BECAUSE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S CLOSE
ASSOCIATION WITH AND CONTROL OF MANAGEMENT, BUDGET,
AND PERSONNEL. HOWEVER AD HOC REQUESTS ARE MADE
DIRECTLY TO THE SYG OR PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL, OR ARE OFTEN
DIRECTED TO INDIVIDUAL IN SECRETARIAT IF IT IS A
WORKING LEVEL REQUEST, AND REPLIES ARE FORTHCOMING
PROMPTLY AND GRACIOUSLY.

7. IF ADDITIONAL INFO IS NEEDED RE ICAO OR WORK OF USMISSION
TO ICAO, USREP WILL BE PLEASED TO ANSWER SPECIFIC
QUESTIONS.

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PAGE 03 MONTRE 01948 141812Z

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